achievement of tree planting on private lands was 20.2 lakh seedlings during the Tenth Five year Plan (as on 31.12.2005) as compared to 43.4 lakh seedlings during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any specific project proposal for setting-up of a wood based mega project in Punjab State to create proper demand for farm grown wood. It is also to mention that the Ministry is not implementing any scheme whereunder financial assistance can be provided for such projects.

Multi-Stakholder partnership for afforestation of degraded land

3717. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a multi-stakeholder partnership for afforestation of degraded lands in the country with the help of private people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a document has been prepared and discussed the same with industry associations and States in December, 2005, and January, 2006;

(d) if so, the details of the discussion; and

(e) to what extent, this measue would help in bringing the forest cover to one third of the country's total land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Preparation of the framework for multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) for forestation of degraded lands has been initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The proposed framework envisages a tripartite arrangement between the land owning agency, the local village community and the sponsor who may be a company, firm, user group, trust, society or organization in public or private sector.

(c) and (d) The industry associations and the representatives of the States and Union Terrorities have, in general, welcomed the MSP approach.

(e) MSP for forestation of degraded lands is one of the several measures contemplated to help in achieving the goal of one-third Forest and Tree Cover in the country.

Unscientific forestation of Vilayati Babool (Precipus *Juliflora*)

†3718. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental balance has been disturbed due to the unscientific afforestation of Vilayati Balool (Precipus *Juliflora*) in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been any adverse impact on the habits of wild animals as a result thereof and their numbers are decreasing continuously; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. Due emphasis is being given on planting of site-specific species while undertaking afforestation work in a particular area.

(b) There are no observations of any adverse impact on the habits of wild animals in areas where Vilayati Babool *(Prosopis juliflora)* occurs.

(c) Question does not arise.

Lack of funds for expansion of forest

†3719. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target for expansion of the forests in the country is not being achieved and the main hindrance in it is the crunch of funds;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.